

Partnership for Kids

2008 Statewide CASA Conference

November 7–8, 2008
Williamsburg, Virginia



*Sponsored by the Virginia Department
of Criminal Justice Services and the
Advisory Committee to the CASA/CJA Programs*

CONFERENCE GOALS

The first CASA program in Virginia was established in 1986. Since then, the programs have expanded to 27 operational programs throughout the Commonwealth. Last year, nearly 1300 volunteers served 4397 abused and neglected children. The CASA programs in Virginia have accomplished much due to the incredible commitment of volunteers, staff and our partners in child welfare.

The 2008 Statewide CASA Conference: Partnerships For Kids will be the eighth time this training event will be offered. The focus of the conference is to enhance and build skills relating to the advocacy efforts all child welfare partners need in order to best serve abused and neglected children. Therefore, this year's conference participants will choose workshops on a variety of topics as they relate to working with children and families within the child welfare system. We hope you can join us!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This conference is designed to specifically benefit and educate CASA volunteers, program staff and board members who want to enhance their skills in advocacy. Further, we invite Judges, GALs, CPS and Foster Care workers, Mental Health Professionals and other "partners" in child welfare to join us in this effort to enhance and strengthen skills needed to serve abused and neglected children in Virginia.

LOCATION

The conference will be held at the Williamsburg Marriott Hotel, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. For overnight accommodations, call the hotel directly at (757) 220-2500 or (800) 442-3654 BEFORE Tuesday, October 7, 2008 in order to take advantage of the special group rate of \$70.00 single/double room plus taxes. Please identify yourself as an attendee of the Statewide CASA Conference sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and mention Group Code CJCG. Directions may be obtained by calling the hotel or by visiting the hotel's website at <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/PHFCW>.



REGISTRATION

A \$50.00 registration fee includes two continental breakfasts, two lunches, and conference materials. Registration is available online at www.dcjs.virginia.gov.

Please Note: An additional \$15 charge will be added to all registrations that are not paid by the date of the conference.

For questions about registration, please contact Denise Marks at (804) 225-3948, or by e-mail at denise.marks@dcjs.virginia.gov

CONFERENCE UPDATES

The conference schedule will be periodically updated. Please be sure to check our website at www.dcjs.virginia.gov/trainingevents/ for current information.

This conference is supported by Children's Justice Act Grant Number G-0601VACJA1, awarded by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families. Points of view or opinions expressed are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Health and Human Services.

CONFERENCE FACULTY

Other Invited Presenters Include:

- **Dr. Cheryl Al-Mateen**, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
- **Officer Catherine Bell**, Newport News Police Department
- **CASA Program Staff**
 - Alexandria/Arlington: Carrie Cannon
 - Colonial: Sarah Serra
 - Fairfax: Lisa Banks
 - Greater Prince William: Carolyn Graham
 - Isle of Wight: Joyelle Saunders
 - Newport News: Christine Matthews
 - Norfolk: LaVern Gaines
 - Piedmont: Ruth Stone
- **Dr. Rick Carroll**, Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol/Washington County
- **Wade Collins**, Hazardous Materials Officer, Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- **Departments of Social Services**
 - Alexandria: Krista Oberlander
 - Isle of Wight: Pamela Burton
 - Prince William: Diane Gestrich
- **Dr. Joan Gillece**, National Center for Trauma Informed Care
- **Lelia Hopper**, Court Improvement Program, Supreme Court of Virginia
- **Tracey Jenkins**, Executive Consultant, Blue Waters Consulting
- **Arthur von Keller**, Guardian Ad Litem, Greater Prince William County
- **Judge Barry Logsdon**, Newport News Juvenile Court
- **Isabel Morales**, Project Manager, Casey Family Services
- **Dr. Dorothy O'Keefe**, Pediatric Psychiatrist, Private Practice
- **Judge Ellen White**, 24th District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court
- **Amy Woolard**, JustChildren Staff Attorney

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. John Seita, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Michigan State University

Dr. Seita is a former youth at risk who beat the odds. He was removed from his mother's home at the age of eight and spent the remainder of his childhood and adolescence in multiple foster homes and group care settings. Abused and neglected as a child, his journey through children's institutions and countless foster homes was a litany of degradation and humiliation. His unrestrained anger at his mother and the system led to a childhood of anger, loneliness and one where he fought with adults, counselors, teachers, house parents, childcare workers and anyone else who crossed his path. Today he is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University having earned his undergraduate degree in sociology and doctorate in educational leadership from Western Michigan University. Dr. Seita understands the challenges facing disconnected young people. Academically challenged students and youth who are in out of home settings, such as foster care, residential care and group care are his specialty. Drawing upon his own leading edge research and evidence-based best practice, he explores how to effectively apply connecting and reclaiming strategies such as positive youth development and strength based approaches. There are few trainers and speakers who have lived in the dependent care system and now share both their insider's view and the latest research in positive youth development, resilience, strength based approaches, and brain research. His practical views are blended with inspirations and hope.

CLOSING SPEAKER

Carlton S. Ashby, M.Ed., Newport News, Virginia

Mr. Ashby is an experienced presenter, an elementary school teacher in the Newport News public school system, and a member of the Newport News Public School Board. As a speaker, he shares his expertise on such topics as developing mentorship programs, effective discipline strategies and human resource training through presentations including: "How to Provide Internal Motivation to Students, K-12," and "Effective Strategies for Helping African American Males to Succeed". He has presented to groups of professionals concerned about the development of children and has also provided workshops to school districts statewide, nationally and internationally. Recently, Mr. Ashby spoke at several local CASA events on the topic of volunteerism. Mr. Ashby received a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Hampton University and a Master's Degree in Elementary Guidance and Counseling from the College of William and Mary. Mr. Ashby has received numerous "Teacher of the Year" awards during his distinguished career and was selected as the National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teacher in 2006.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008

8:30–10:00 Registration/Continental Breakfast

10:00–12:00 Welcome and Opening Session

Keynote Address: “In Whose Best Interest?”

John Seita

12:00–1:15 Luncheon

1:15–2:30 Concurrent Workshops

- Writing Effective CASA Reports
- Problems as Opportunities: Working with Resistant Clients
- Recognition and Prevention of Youth Gang Violence

2:45–4:00 Concurrent Workshops

- Court Process 101 - Back to the Basics
- Effective Advocacy when Working with Teens
- Trauma Informed Practice for Court Professionals

4:15–5:30 Concurrent Workshops

- What’s New in the Juvenile Court Code - An Update on the Laws that Affect the Juvenile Courts in Virginia
- Becoming a Culturally Competent Advocate for Children and Families
- Creating Effective Partnerships between CASA and DSS



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2008

8:30–9:00 **Continental Breakfast**

9:00–10:15 **Concurrent Workshops**

- Working with Male Victims of Abuse
- Real Colors: Determining your Personal Work Style
- The Impact of Methamphetamines on Child Welfare

10:30–11:45 **Concurrent Workshops**

- Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries as a CASA Volunteer
- Recognition of Mental Health Disorders and Making Effective Recommendations
- Special Education Advocacy for Youth in Foster Care

12:00 –2:00 **Lunch & Closing Session**

- Volunteer Recognition

Closing: “The Power is in You”

Carlton Ashby



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